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Director



CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS (CAPI) FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

The State Legislature approved and the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2779 authorizing a State-only program to provide cash assistance to certain aged, blind, and disabled legal non-citizens who are not eligible for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP). CAPI was implemented on November 1, 1998.

ELIGIBLE POPULATION

If otherwise eligible, the following legal non-citizens will qualify for CAPI:

- < Qualified aliens 65 years or older (aged) who lawfully entered the U.S. **on or before August 21, 1996**. If aged individuals are disabled or blind, they may be eligible to SSI/SSP. However, they may receive CAPI benefits until SSI/SSP is approved; **or**,
- < Individuals who are disabled, blind or aged, and entered the U.S. **on or before August 21, 1996** (these individuals must provide proof of their Permanent Residence Under Color of Law [PRUCOL] status); **or**,
- < Qualified aliens who are disabled, blind or aged, lawfully entered the U.S. **on or after August 22, 1996** and have a sponsor, but the sponsor is deceased, disabled or abusive (or the sponsor's spouse is abusive to the immigrant).
- < Qualified aliens or PRUCOLs who are disabled, blind or aged, entered the U.S. **on or after August 22, 1996**, and **do not** have a sponsor or have a sponsor who is **not** deceased, disabled or abusive.

Federal SSI/SSP was restored for the aged/disabled legal non-citizens (PRUCOLs) who had been slated for discontinuance on September 30, 1998.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for CAPI, individuals must successfully complete the application process, including the following:

- < Apply for SSI/SSP - This is necessary to determine if an individual is ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their immigrant status.

- < Meet the income criteria - The individual's monthly income, after certain amounts are disregarded, cannot be greater than the maximum monthly CAPI benefit amount.

Income is anything the person receives in cash or in-kind that can be used or sold to meet their needs for food, clothing and shelter. In-kind income is food, clothing or shelter, or something that can be used to get any of these items.

- < Meet the resource criteria - The resources a person may own cannot be greater than \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple.

Resources are cash or other property that the person can convert into cash for support. For example: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, mortgages, bank accounts, household goods, boats and vehicles, or land. Some resources are not counted in determining eligibility, such as the principal place of residence (regardless of value), one car (used to provide necessary transportation or does not exceed a certain value), and household goods and personal effects of reasonable value.

- < Meet CAPI living arrangements and residency requirements - Any individual living in a public institution, such as jail, for an entire month is not eligible for CAPI. Individuals who are not California residents are not eligible for CAPI. California residence is determined by physical presence in California with the intent to remain in the State.

BENEFITS

By law, CAPI payment amounts are **\$10 less for an individual or \$20 less for a couple** than the SSI/SSP payment standards. CAPI participants will receive these payment amounts if no other income is received by the household.

CAPI participants may be eligible for Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and/or Food Stamp benefits. Individuals requesting such benefits must file the appropriate application for the other program.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

DPSS posts flyers in district offices to advise individuals about CAPI. Flyers are also shared with community representatives, General Relief (GR) participants and other interested agencies or individuals. CAPI presentations were given at District Community meetings and other community agency meetings. CAPI brochures are available at all District Offices for applicants of all aids.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

CAPI applications may be filed at any DPSS GR office. Homebound applicants may call the toll-free Hotline Number **1-877-481-1044** to receive an application by mail. CAPI applications are processed centrally in the Wilshire CAPI District.